

REMARKS

Please note that since June 24, 2006, is a Saturday this paper is timely filed on the next succeeding business day, June 26, 2006.

Claims 1-22 are pending in this Application. The following Groups of claims have been distinguished, as follows, by the Examiner:

Group I – Claims 1-12, drawn to metal compounds covalently bonded to supports, classified in class 502, and various subclasses depending on the nature of the compound;

Group II – Claims 13-22, drawn to catalytic processes performed using the compounds of Group I, classified in various classes and subclasses depending on the identity of the compounds.

Applicants hereby provisionally elect with full traversal Group I (Claims 1-12). Under 35 U.S.C. § 121 an application may properly be required to be restricted to one of two or more claimed inventions only if they are able to support separate patents and are independent and distinct inventions. See MPEP 803. However, even where the claims are able to support separate patents and are independent and distinct inventions and the search and examination of the entire application can be made *without serious burden*, the Examiner must examine the application on its merits, even though it includes claims to independent and distinct inventions. See MPEP 803

It is respectfully submitted that the search classification for each invention group substantially overlaps. Therefore, a search can be concurrently performed for both Groups and that the Examiner will not be seriously burdened by searching and considering the inventions as described in all the presently filed claims. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the restriction requirement between the inventions of Groups I and II.

Applicants also note that the Office's species election requirement entered for the claims of Group II is rendered moot for purposes of this response as a result of

Applicants election of Group I with traverse. However, to the extent the Office may decide to withdraw the present restriction requirement, while also maintaining the restriction between species, Applicants submit they will be fully prepared to timely respond thereto.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the claims of non-elected group or other claims in one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications at a later date.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, or need any additional information from Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned directly.

Respectfully submitted,

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- 3 -